

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

May 22, 2002

D.T.E. 02-24

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 164, § 94, and 220 C.M.R. §§ 5.00 et seq. for a General Increase in Gas Rates.

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company ("Company") has filed a petition with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") for a \$3.4 million increase in its base rates for firm gas customers. At the same time, the Company proposes to redesign rates to more closely correspond to the actual costs of providing service to each customer class. The Company last received a general gas rate increase in December 1998.

If the Company's petition is approved, the proposed rates will result in:

- a 15 percent increase in the Company's annual gas revenues;
- an approximate increase of \$4.94 per month to \$11.81 per month for residential gas non-heating customers using 10 to 30 therms per month in the winter season; and
- an approximate increase of \$23.93 per month to \$40.75 per month for gas heating customers using 100 to 175 therms per month in the winter season.

Bill impacts for commercial and industrial customers will vary. For specific impacts, please contact the Company as shown below.

The Department has docketed this matter as D.T.E. 02-24 and suspended the effective date of the rate increase until December 3, 2002, in order to investigate the propriety of the Company's request.

A copy of the petition is available for public review during regular business hours at the Company's offices, 285 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420, and at the offices of the Department, One South Station - 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110. For further information on the Company's petition, please contact Company representative George Gantz at (888) 301-7700 or by email at gantz@unitil.com.

The Department has scheduled a public hearing to receive comment on the Company's proposal on:

Thursday, June 20, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.
Fitchburg Public Library Auditorium
610 Main Street
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

Persons interested in commenting on the Company's filing may appear at the public hearing or file written comments with the Department by the close of business (5:00 p.m.) on Thursday **June 20, 2002**. A procedural conference will be held at the Department's offices at 11:00 a.m. on Friday **June 21, 2002**.

Any person who desires to participate in the evidentiary phase of this proceeding must file a written petition for leave to intervene with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station - 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, not later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday **June 13, 2002**. A petition for leave to intervene must satisfy the timing and substantive requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.03. Receipt by the Department, not mailing, constitutes filing and determines whether a petition has been timely filed. A petition filed late may be disallowed as untimely, unless good cause is shown for waiver pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 1.01(4). To be allowed, a petition under 220 C.M.R. § 1.03(1) must satisfy the standing requirements of G.L. c. 30A, § 10.

Where possible, written comments or petitions to intervene also should be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 02-24), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document. The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix), in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix), or as an Adobe PDF file (naming the document with a ".pdf" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. All written pleadings or comments submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.mass.gov/dpu>.

ORDER OF NOTICE

D.T.E. 02-24

Petition of Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 164, § 94, and 220 C.M.R. §§ 5.00 et seq. for a General Increase in Gas Rates

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company ("Company") is required to publish the attached legal notice in the Boston Globe or the Boston Herald, the Fitchburg-Leominster Sentinel and the Worcester Telegram, once at least twenty-one (21) days and once again seven (7) days prior to June 20, 2002.

Fitchburg Gas and Electric Light Company is required to give notice of this proceeding to the Chairmen of the Boards of Selectmen, Town Clerks, Mayors, and City Clerks of Fitchburg, Townsend, Lunenburg, Ashby, Westminster and Gardner, with a request that the municipal official/recipient post a copy of the notice in each city or town hall in the Company's service area. The Company shall also provide actual notice to any person who has filed a request for notice with the Company, serve a copy of the notice on all parties in the prior rate case, D.T.E. 98-51, and also to make return of service and publication at the time of the hearing.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary